

# Leeds Philatelic Society - Annual Competition Rules

## Introduction

### General Remarks

- These notes are not exhaustive and are designed to give an introduction to the rules for our annual competition. You may find it useful to read this first page before continuing to read the rules and certainly before submitting an entry for the competition.
- When considering an entry for the competition, remember that the rules are to ensure a level of conformity and to make the judging consistent, easier and fairer.
- Sixteen sheets drawn straight from your album are unlikely to impress the judge. To do well in the competition your entry must be planned and prepared to give maximum impact.
- It must tell a story, be pleasing in appearance and be neatly written up.
- Before entering the competition, be sure to read the rules and note carefully the aspects of your entry which carry marks

### Planning and preparing the Entry

- Use standard size album sheets or A4 size card. To display large items, use a double sheet (counts as two sheets). The base colour of the sheets is important. White, cream or gentle pastel colours are fine, but bold, luminous colours, although not barred could make reading the text difficult and may get marked down by the judge for poor presentation. Never use black sheets.
- You need to be sure of the class you wish to enter and have sufficient material to prepare a 16-sheet entry. The main content of your entry should be philatelic - stamps and covers. Too much non-philatelic material will lose you marks.
- The first sheet of your entry should contain a brief introduction and plan of the overall entry and can contain some philatelic (or limited non-philatelic) items to reinforce your introduction.
- Keep strictly to the type of material for the call you have entered; for instance :-
  - General Class should be mainly stamps with just a few covers.
  - Postal History Class which is about postal markings, routes and rates, should therefore consist of mainly covers.
  - Elizabethan Class should clearly contain material from that era.
- Don't over or under fill the sheets and try to give each sheet a balanced appearance. The overall exhibit should also have a balanced appearance when displayed as a 4 X 4 entry. When completed try displaying in that way on a table, bed or on the floor and see how it looks and then make any cosmetic change to improve the appearance.
- Two sheets demand special attention - the first and last sheets. The judge will read these two sheets carefully, whilst skimming through the rest of the sheet. You are aware that the first sheet is an introduction to and a plan of the complete entry. The final/last sheet should provide a conclusion to the entry.

### Submitting Your Entry

- Don't forget to number your sheets in the order they are to be displayed. Each sheet should be contained in a clear plastic protector - preferably of archival quality (acid free).
- Your entry should be
  - Submitted before the closing date;
  - Accompanied by a completed entry form; and
  - Enclosed in a stout envelope or folder showing your name, class entered and title of entry.

**Good Luck**

## General Principles

- The competition is open only to members of the Leeds Philatelic Society.
- Entries shall be submitted under the following seven classes:-
  - General     ::     Postal History   ::     Thematic
  - Special     ::     Novice Entrants     ::     Postcards     ::     Elizabethan

## Submission of Entries

- Each member may submit no more than two entries in each class.
- Entries for the *General*, *Postal History*, *Thematic* and *Special Classes* shall be of 16 standard sized sheets and for the *Novice Entrants Class* a minimum of 4 sheets and maximum of 8 standard sized sheets (see note at the end of these Rules about what constitutes a standard size sheet).
- All sheets in each entry shall be in transparent protective covers and shall be consecutively numbered in the order in which they should be presented for judging.
- The first sheet of each entry shall have a title, a brief description of what the entry is intended to cover, and should ideally include relevant material to introduce the subject.

## Judging of Entries

- The Committee of the Leeds Philatelic Society shall determine the method of judging the entries within the marking criteria set out below.
- Judges may enter the competition, but no person acting as a judge shall judge a class in which he or she has submitted an entry.

## The Classes and Markings

Entries may be in the following Classes and shall be marked as follows:

### General Class

For stamps and supporting limited collateral material. Entries should consist of a study of adhesive stamps, including revenue stamps accepted for postal use, and thus performing the use of postage stamps. (Marking - see below)

### Postal History Class

A study of postal markings, routes and rates. Private posts such as William Dockwra's Post, Peter Williamson's Post, circular delivery companies and private posts operating during strikes by a postal authority can be included.

### Postal Stationery Class

For studies of cards, envelopes, wrappers or other forms issued by Postal Authorities both in unused and used condition, usually but not always with a franking device printed thereon. Also permitted are studies relating to the production and printing of the stationery, items of postal stationery printed or used by private bodies under license from the Postal Authorities, and stationery bearing additional postage stamps.

### Special Class\* (including Cinderella Class)

For informal entries, including Cinderella stamps, Revenues and unclassified material, with at least half the material overall being philatelic and including entries that would qualify for the National 'Open' class.

Marking for each of the previous four classes shall be as follows.

Aspect	Mark
Philatelic & Related Knowledge	35
Importance	10
Presentation	10
Condition	15
Treatment	20
Rarity	10
TOTAL	100

*\* Note. No deduction of marks shall be made for an entry of less than 16 sheets in the Special Class, provided it consists of a minimum of 8 sheets.*

## Thematic Class

For entries illustrating a theme in which postal material is the predominant element. Apart from the minimum of maps and drawings giving information relevant to the entry, non-philatelic material should be excluded. The study of a single stamp is not a thematic entry and will be disqualified or transferred to another class at the discretion of the Competition Secretary or the Judges.

Marking for the Thematic Class shall be:

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Mark</b>	
Plan	15	
Development	15	
Originality	5	(Sub Total 35)
<b>Knowledge, Personal Study &amp; Research</b>		
Thematic	15	
Philatelic	15	(Sub Total 30)
<b>Condition &amp; Rarity</b>		
Condition	10	
Rarity	10	(Sub Total 20)
<b>Presentation</b>	15	(Sub Total 15)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

## Postcard Class

By welcoming entries in the Postcard Class for their Annual Competition, Leeds Philatelic Society is :-

- Reflecting the introduction of a postcard class at Stampex;
- Recognising the growing integration of postcard collecting within philately; and
- Seeking to attract a wider category of collectors to our Society.

Entries in the postcard class, should take the same general format as other classes - 16 standard sized sheets within protective covers, with the first sheet giving a plan of the entry and an introduction.

Entries of postcards, either postally-used or unused, should follow a theme and will show the pictorial or subject side of the cards. For the purpose of this sub-class postmarks are irrelevant, except in indicating approximate publication date of the postcard.

**Marking** for the Picture Postcards Sub-Class will follow the Yorkshire Philatelic Association's marking system as follows:

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Factors Taken into Account by Judges</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Ideas/Plan	Originality with a clear plan, followed throughout entry	10
Treatment	Story line and outline of subject. Types of cards	20
Knowledge and Research	How well is it demonstrated that the exhibitor knows the subject? References used; exhibitor's own writing Shown; technical matters/printers and publishers.	35
Condition	Corners not blunted; no foxing or damage to cards, but Taking account of condition due to age and usage and Rarity; and normal condition to be expected of them	10
Rarity	How available are cards shown; not just dependent on Monetary value.	20
Presentation	Is exhibit neatly presented and well balanced - and Pleasing to the eye?	5
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>		<b>100</b>

### **Novice Entrants' Class**

This Class is only open to members who have never submitted an entry in one of the 4 Senior Classes and can be of any subject covered by the five main classes above. The entry can be a maximum of 8 sheets and a minimum of 4 sheets. In judging 2 points will be deducted from the final total marks for the entry for every sheet the entry falls short of 8 sheets.

**Marking** for the Novice Entrants class shall be \*:

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Mark</b>
Philatelic and related Knowledge of Subject	30
Presentation of the Subject	30
Condition of the Material	30
Judge's Discretion	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Subject to deduction as provided by the Rules for entries less than 8 sheets)

## **The Elizabethan Class**

In 2015 the Leeds Philatelic Society inaugurated this Elizabethan Class to commemorate 60 years of the stamp issues of Queen Elizabeth II. The Competition is intended to be all embracing and will cover studies of the stamps, postal history, thematic, Cinderella, aero-philately issues of the stamps issued within the United Kingdom during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. After an experimental period, this Class shall be open to members of societies affiliated to the Yorkshire Philatelic Association.

### **Purpose of the Elizabethan Competition**

To commemorate and celebrate the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, and the diversity of postage stamps and postal history produced in the British Isles during her reign.

### **Entrants to the Competition**

- Members of the Leeds Philatelic Society shall be allowed to submit one entry to the competition.
- One entry each may also be accepted from non-members who are members of societies affiliated to the Yorkshire Philatelic Association subject to verification of that membership and at the discretion of the Competition Secretary, who will have discretion to refuse any entry not in compliance with these Rules.

### **Geographical Area, Period and Content for Entries**

- Material shall be restricted to British stamps and postal history, and the development of the postal system, usually bearing stamps or imprints issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II(1) by recognised postal authorities including postage stamps issued by the Royal Mail within the British Isles; Guernsey; Jersey; Alderney; the Isle of Man and regional issues, but shall exclude privately operated and emergency postal services.
- Entries may be studies of stamps or postal routes and rates, or on a theme. Some ephemeral material, such as Post-Office Notices, postcards etc, relevant to the subject of the entry may be included, but at least 50% of the material should be stamps or postal history items.
- Entries may include those definitive issues popularly known as 'Wildings' and 'Machins' and commemoratives issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II(1). Entries should be on standard sized sheets, including A4 size sheets, and consist of 16 pages with the pages numbered consecutively in the order to be shown.

### **Submission and Judging of the Entries**

- The submission of entries and the date of judging shall be at a time and place determined by the Council of the Leeds Philatelic Society. All entries should bear a covering sheet showing the title of the entry with the name and address of the owner.
- The Leeds Philatelic Society reserves the right to levy an entry fee upon entrants not exceeding £5.00 to cover any expenses of the judges, hire of a room for judging and organising the competition.
- Rarity and value of material included in the entries will not be a strong consideration in the judging of the entries. The judging will be carried out by one or two independent judges.

- The judge(s) will be looking for originality, knowledge and good presentation in the systematic study of stamps, postal history, ephemera or development of postal services and practices issued by and within the postal authorities allowed under these rules.

Marking will be to the following criteria:

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Mark</b>
Explanation of Material	25
Presentation	25
Knowledge	25
Content	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Under each of the criteria the entry is marked as follows to provide a profile of the entry and the standard achieved:

- A = Excellent
- B = Very Good
- C = Good
- D = Fair
- E = Weak

The standards based on these marks will determine the medal standard achieved, and result in a profile which may range from AAAA (Gold Standard) to EEEE (Below Bronze Standard and warranting only a Certificate of Participation). However, the judges have flexibility in deciding the standard achieved. For example, a criterion receiving an 'A' marking for Knowledge might be considered as being of such exceptional merit under that heading to deserve disregarding lower criteria markings of 'Ds' and 'Es' that would otherwise lead to it being given a lower medal standard.

### **Awards**

The winner of the Elizabethan Competition shall receive 'The Leeds Elizabethan Trophy' to hold for one year, surrendering the Trophy to the following winner. Each entrant will receive a certificate appropriate to the standard achieved by their entry.

### **Disclaimer**

*The Leeds Philatelic Society will take every care to ensure the safety of entries entrusted to them but take no responsibility for any loss or damage arising during the time entries are in their possession, and entrants are recommended to make arrangements to insure valuable material.*

## Medal Standards and Conditions of Entry

Seven Medal Standards shall be awarded as follows:

Gold	90% or over
Silver-Gilt	80% to 89%
Silver	70% to 79%
Silver-Bronze	60% to 69%
Bronze	50% to 59%
Certificate of Merit	40% to 49%
Certificate of Participation	under 40%

- The Competition Secretary and the Judges shall have discretion to transfer entries from one class to another or exclude entries not conforming to the rules.
- The results of the judging shall be final.
- Entries shall be handed in to the Competition Secretary at the date and time notified.
- The Leeds Philatelic Society will take all reasonable care of entries, but accepts no responsibility for loss or damage of entries. Entrants should make their own arrangements for insurance of their material if they consider this necessary.

## Notes not forming part of the Rules

**Note 1.** The term 'standard size sheet' shall include all sizes of sheet which are A4 size (8.2" wide by 11.7" high) or larger sizes of album sheet accepted for regional, national or international competitions. It is permitted to combine two or more sheets as one sheet, but for the purposes of the number of sheets comprising the entry they will be counted as the number of standard sheets the combined sheet represents.

**Note 2.** The Trophies awarded to the winners in the respective classes are:

- General Class Dr Jacob Trophy
- Postal History Class Laurence Moore Trophy
- Thematic Class Ian Gilchrist Trophy
- Special Class 145 RAC Trophy
- Novice Entrants' Class Philip G Walker Trophy

Copies of these Rules are available from the Secretary by email or as a hard copy at Society Meetings and are be posted on the Society's website.

Richard Smith  
Secretary